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AUGUST 2013

**P**rison Action News is a newsletter collaboratively published by prisoner support groups for prisoners worldwide to report on their struggles and acts of resistance from behind bars. All submissions must be RECEIVED by **January 1st or July 1st** and be in compliance with the guidelines below. Please note that we retain the right as editors to alter submissions for grammatical and content-related issues. Prison Action News is one part of the multi-faceted Prison Abolition movement. We believe that the writing in Prison Action News is as important as poetry or political essays, but is often less represented.

#### **History:**

The idea for Prison Action News came out of the 2007 Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) Network gathering. We wanted to create a venue for prisoners to share updates of their activities, similar to the updates we wrote in the network newsletter. As people on the outside, we can facilitate this dialog of prison resistance, and help our comrades stay informed about the inspiring actions others are taking. We accept submissions from prisoners and prison groups worldwide, and bilingual writing. With your help this newsletter will be a success- if you know of resistance taking place that is not represented here, please send us a submission, and spread the word!

#### **Please send SUBMISSIONS to:**

*Prison Action News:*

*PO Box 832 Watertown, MA 02472 prisonactionnews@riseup.net*

#### **Send SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS or ADDRESS CHANGES to:**

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*OR*

*Central Texas ABC PO Box 7187 Austin TX 78713 twitchon@hotmail.com*

#### **Guidelines**

1. An update must not exceed 500 words.
2. We will not accept submissions with racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise oppressive language.
3. An update may be a report on resistance activities of individual prisoners or prison groups (this can include, but is not limited to, radical book groups, hunger strike, general strike, letter writing campaigns, etc.).
4. A report should not be a political essay or a report on prison conditions, rather, the response and resistance to these conditions.
5. PAN accepts entries of artwork and illustrations.
6. One submission per group, per prison, per newsletter.
7. We will not report on gang activity.
8. We accept bilingual entries (when one language is English), as well as Spanish entries!
9. Entries may be submitted for publication with the name and contact information of the writer, or anonymously, to protect their identity.

LAYOUT BY JAKE CARMAN  
PAN IS PRODUCED BY THE PAN EDITORIAL  
COLLECTIVE, MEMBERS OF BOSTON ABC, AND  
CENTRAL TX ABC.

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## **Disclaimer:**

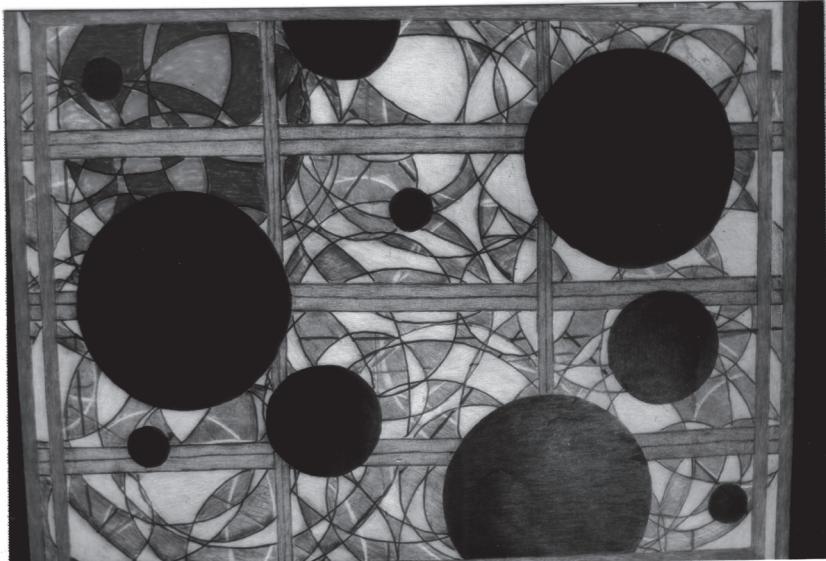
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## PAN Collective Statement on Forced Sterilization of California Inmates:

We are appalled and disgusted at the recent revelation that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) authorized and executed the nonconsensual sterilization of nearly 150 female inmates between 2006 and 2010. The United States has a shameful history of forcing sterilizations, specifically on poor women, women of color, and other marginalized groups, so it does not come as a surprise that this horrible practice has continued into the twenty-first century. With shackling pregnant inmates during childbirth and separating mothers from their newborns within hours of birth as the

norm, the forced sterilization of these women is yet another example of the egregious war on women and their reproductive freedoms waged by this country every day. This war is waged

particularly aggressively on women in prison. We call on all prisoners to recognize this war on their sisters and the struggle against reproductive oppression as an essential part of the prison resistance movement, and for the folks on the outside working on issues of reproductive justice to not leave incarcerated women behind.



Art by Charles Brabant

## NEW PRISON GROUPS AND PROGRAMS

F.T.S.

April 2013

F.T.S. Is a collective of prisoners dedicated to resisting and systematically deconstructing the Prison Industrial Complex. The concept came from a series of discussion groups initiated while I was in transit with the intention of establishing some form of structured unity. It was inspired by the Occupy Movement as well as the National Lawyers Guild and the Center for Constitutional Rights' dedication to supporting a prisoner-initiated movement. In the Jailhouse Lawyers Handbook they explain that "favorable court rulings backed by a strong movement can convince prison staff to hold back, so that conditions inside are a little less brutal and prisoners have a little more freedom to read, write, and talk."

Out of the discussion groups, we recognized that it was important to create proactive network contacts while still in transit to ensure the F.T.S. concept and spirit could spread to as many ID-units as possible. "F.T.S." as a name is universal in use- like the word Occupy is for the Occupy Movement- but it actually doesn't stand for anything specific. Those three letters are appealing because they can form many potential meanings: Fight the System; Free the Slaves; Forced to Sign; Fuck the State- it can stand for anything you want it to stand for. F.T.S. is a call for unity.

Our next step of establishment was to find a reliable forum to maintain dialogue and develop the F.T.S. movement. I was very pleased when I discovered that all the hard work had already been done and we have access to such a diligent newsletter such as Prison Action News. We now have a voice.

The prison industrial complex survives because of our disunity and ignorance. F.T.S. has the potential to reverse this. I would like to invite all like-minded prisoners to establish a F.T.S. chapter at their unit to facilitate action and dialogue. This is your call to action. We need you to build a network of resistance at your unit and begin organizing a plan that is both systematic and proactive to address the specific issues at your unit as well as the bigger issues that face all prisoners. If you are already involved in resistance- great- but you can also carry on the same work by using F.T.S. as an excuse to unite and further the cause. The idea is that we will be so much more successful if we unite under one banner- like the concept behind Occupy. If you are not comfortable initiating the organization of a chapter then make it your duty to find someone who will- share the idea in the dorm/wing, at chow, the rec yard, the law library- whenever and with whomever you can. But please be aware that because prison authorities know united resistance is effective they will try to stop it regardless of any policy or law in place to protect your right to litigate. With this in mind it is important to promote and organize F.T.S. discreetly.

Prison Action News has countless examples of action that can be adopted by your F.T.S. chapter- mass grievances, general strikes, letter writing campaigns, hunger strikes, non-violent protest, media awareness, legal action, radical book studies, pamphlet/zine distribution, action workshops, and even tutoring the next generation on the law and resistive action.

The F.T.S. chapter at my last unit became very successful in a short amount of time. We had a network that could get about 30 proactive people to file mass grievances. We got an abusive Sergeant stripped of all rank, got regular outside recreation, periodically stopped the practice of having our necessities and personal items confiscated and circulated petitions about the excessive heat conditions. We also set up a “union” of jailhouse lawyers who helped other prisoners file appeals to their disciplinaries- for FREE! F.T.S. works. So get together with like-minded prisoners and set up a F.T.S. chapter. Get everyone involved to subscribe to PAN and submit your chapter’s action. Together we will win this war.

Revolution begins from within.

~The Rue~



## **North Carolina ABC Prison Chapter January 2013**

Greetings from the boneyard,

Our names are Donald Williams a.k.a. Kros Bones (age 22) and Timothy Coffield a.k.a. Venom (age 21) and we are currently serving time at Foothills Correctional Institution here in Morganton, North Carolina. FCI houses close custody inmates, ages 18-25, and alleged level III gang members, ages 18+. The “gang members” are enrolled in a 9 month program that really serves no purpose but to separate them from regular population.

At this boneyard the pigs aren’t as aggressive since they installed cameras, so now they like to play games with us “convicts” by raiding cells and taking stuff that seems valuable to us and provoking us to anger by talking shit. Not only that, but they have snitches (“confidential informants”) that they bribe to provide true info or create intel just to get the people they don’t like off of the compound and into segregation. Once on seg we can get anywhere from 15 to 540 days.

Depending on what these pigs write us up for, we can receive 15, 30, 45, 60, 180 (Intensive Control- “I-Con”), 260 (Maximum Control- “M-Con”), or 540 (High Maximum Control- “H-Con”) days. If you’re on any of the control status’ then our segregation time can be started over or 180 days can be added for just catching a bullshit writeup or some stupid shit such as “contraband.” We personally know inmates that have been on seg for 3-4 years because of this bullshit.

Because of all this, and in order to spread solidarity through FCI, we have together birthed the North Carolina ABC Prison Chapter so that we can start bringing forth awareness of the struggle to these young minds. We hear people in here speak on revolutionary change, yet, at the most, they only strive to educate themselves rather than those around them too.

We are working day-in and day-out, coming up with thoughts, ideas, and are beginning to come up with our own materials to let these young minds read and

study to open their minds and eyes to the cause. We’re also looking for resources that will be of use to us and our comrades in here. Our key objectives are to combat racism, homophobia, and inmate-on-inmate violence, as well as exposing them to great revolutionaries such as: John Brown, Emma Goldman, the Black and White Panthers, Vladimir Lenin, and Karl Marx. We have a few things by Coyote Sheff and Sean Swain. Their literature is not only brilliant, but inspiring too! By shining light on the struggle, we will be able to put forth a revolutionary change here at FCI.

Thanks for hearing us out. May your days be bright and filled with joy and your nights be filled with warmth and comfort.

Blessed be, in love and solidarity.

NC ABC Prison Chapter

Donald Williams (founder) #1024981  
Timothy Coffield (co-founder) #1181026  
Deshawn Gregory #1168990  
Anthony S. Hayes #1162334

5150 Western Ave.  
Morganton, NC 28655

## **WOMMB**

## **March 2013**

Evolutionary greetings from Warrior’s Order Mobilized for Maximum Building (WOMMB) and Federation of Arizona Prisoner Activists and Revolutionaries. We would like to share our main form and mode of resistance and what we think is the essential weapon for long-term, protracted guerilla warfare against oppressors and unjust authority on all levels and of all types. We have embraced it as the core of our training programs and foundation for any demonstrations or protests. I am referring to the art and science of training the will, and cultivating the noble character through ascetic practices, disciplined daily regimens, and other time-tested procedures. Of course, we utilize “think tank” sessions, individual and group studies in history, war, psychology, economics, etc. and the grievance/law-suit and/or work stoppage tactics. But the will and character have to be cultivated in order for the individual to be able to exemplify and live out the ideas and principles one has studied and embraced. This is the ultimate form of resistance and rebellion.

We resist and renounce the very culture and civilization that oppresses us. Through our studies of the effects and symptoms of Imperialism, Colonialism, genocide and oppression we’ve learned that their nihilistic nature creates particular sets of characteristics in their victims (us: the oppressed): shame, self-hatred, self-destructiveness, sociopathic tendencies, self-medication, low ambition, self-alienation, complacency, hopelessness, etc. are just a few of the traits that come to mind. These traits must be overcome. We first need to resist and combat these traits and the culture - “cultural anesthetics”- that created and maintained them before we can be

effective and battle ready. The cultural anesthetics and opiates are products such as: TV, entertainment, jobs, pop culture, etc; all the things that distract us and numb us to the pain of living in a meaningless, valueless, oppressive society.

Here in ADOC, we resist our enemy's attempts to placate us and pacify us with inadequate, temporary concessions of: more TV channels, fundraisers and other "incentives" that only further hinder our ability to keep evolving and present a resistance. Only a disciplined, self-mastered person who stands on principle and noble values can see past the smoke screens, stay focused on the agenda, stay the course and honor something loftier than immediate sensual gratification. Conjugal visits, food packages, larger food portions, more channels, getting porno magazines back, more rec time, etc. have nothing to do with the goals of revolution; have nothing to do with reaching our potential and purpose as human beings and creating a better world. We'd still be slaves. On the contrary, sometimes "winning" these concessions causes us to accept our condition and identify with our socioeconomic and political impotence. You cannot improve upon the concept and experience of incarceration.

We resist, rebel, and revolt by forming our own support networks, universities, and rites of passage institutions right here on our prison tiers and dorms; by renouncing the frivolous activities our oppressor provide that leave us comatose (games, music, gossip, AA meetings, jobs, sports, television, etc.). As we renounce these degenerating time wasters, we create for ourselves genuine programs for physical fitness, education, life coaching to prepare for release, parenting skills, etc. all provided by us, not our enemy (the state). Although cordial and respectful, we don't form any relationships with the guards or administration. Sometimes we purposefully endure poverty and hardship to stay razor sharp and focused so we can't be bribed with "favors" or "special treatment" to compromise our principles. We're slowly weening ourselves off of our addictions to this culture and our attachments to imperialism's methods for destroying our humanity and human potential. We're resisting and waging the subtle, most essential guerilla warfare by retaking our humanity and freedom and adopting lifestyles that refine our being so that we can remain true to revolutionary values beyond the rhetorical dichotomies of capitalism/communism, democracy/socialism, bourgeoisie/proletariat. It's about moral agency, humans evolving to their highest possibility, civic responsibility, and autonomously living our purpose.

The pre-requisite for any liberation movement and/or community building is the decolonization of our wills, minds, values, and conduct.

Stay strong, keep evolving, stay ethical.

In struggle,

Anthony S. Gay #188904  
ASPC-Winslow  
Kaibab Unit (1-A-120)  
2100 S. Highway 87  
Winslow, AZ 86047

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## PRISON GROUPS UPDATES

### Please Note:

This update about the activity of the Army of the 12 Monkeys was submitted as the outside observations of a prisoner who is not in any way associated or affiliated with the Army of the 12 Monkeys.

#### Army of the 12 Monkeys

**January 2013**

In September (2012)[...] flyers and manuals circulated all over the prison. The Army of the 12 Monkeys were everywhere. They promoted a sabotage campaign: mass-flushing to bust pipes, staples in locks, breaking equipment at the Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) factory, cramming blockages in drains, cutting phone and computer cords with toenail clippers. And it was happening- salt water in computers, staples in locks, pipes busting. The locksmith and plumbers were pulling their hair out. In the chowhall, they crammed potatoes in the drain and caused pipes to break. The institution had to contract an outside firm at tens of thousands of dollars to dig up the chow hall floor and fix the pipes, and then weeks later someone poured cement in the drain and destroyed the piping again. The number "12" was tagged all over the place.

The administration was in shock. They had gauntlets of guards on the compound for shakedowns, had guards armed with paintball and pepper-spray guns. And still it continued.

On September 19 my cell was searched for two hours. Security threat group fascists took my typewriter and a rough draft of my Jpay article. The typewriter still hasn't been returned.

Instead of going to seg, I was taken to a suicide cell in a line of cells behind the medical clinic called "Torture cell row" by staff and prisoners alike. My cell had no bed, no heat. I had to pace all night to stay warm. No pen or pencil, no toothbrush, no recreation, no shower. It was the exact recipe for "the simple torture situation" described in the CIA's Kubark manual. After 2 days a friend who came to visit and was turned away learned of my plight and organized friends to call and complain, which led to me being moved to segregation. I was sleep-deprived and hallucinating by then. Two men have died in that cell since then. I repeat: two men have died in that torture cell since September.

There were three of us railroaded through the prison disciplinary process because the inept investigator, Angela Hunsinger, had to scapegoat somebody while she ate donuts and drank coffee or else she'd lose her job, and no one else will pay for her tossing pencils up into the ceiling tiles. James Dzelajlija 530-144 was accused of possessing a rap verse; Les Dillon 416-607 was accused of having 12 Monkeys Literature; I was accused of having a 3-year-old tattoo and of publishing writings that prove I'm an "ideological match" to the Army of the 12 Monkeys. We're now slated

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to go to Supermax. While Dillon admits his affiliation with the group, Dzelajlija is going to Supermax for a rap verse and I'm going there for my "ideology."

During the course of this, the Ohio State Highway Patrol attempted to question us regarding "threatening letters" sent to "government officials" and to this day, the FBI will not return my typewriter. This echoes the same fabricated basis for the FBI's unlawful persecution of the Long Haul infoshop in Berkeley.

And that's where the story ended. Or so the prison administration thought. On January 15, 3 or 4 more prisoners were rounded up as 12 Monkey resisters, including Shawn Marshall 461-448, allegedly found with more copies of training manuals. Again, there were staples in locks, busted pipes, fizzled computers. According to prisoners on the compound, much of the prison population now claims 12 Monkey affiliation and every time something happens to staff, someone yells out, "12 Monkeys!"

Just yesterday, January 29, 40 prisoners from Lake Erie Correctional, a medium prison, were emergency transferred here to Manci and placed in Special Management Unit (SMU) 3, quarantined from all other prisoners and held incommunicado following what has been described as a 12 Monkey-inspired uprising. According to someone who admits affiliation with the group, prisoners have transferred to several Ohio prisoners with copies of training and organizing manuals, and the Army of the 12 Monkeys are planning widespread hostilities for the summer. They appear to have only one demand- an end to the Ohio Prison System. Its complete destruction.

Currently, all of us identified as 12 Monkey resisters are held indefinitely in the SMU (formerly death row) without any books because library service to the SMU was terminated. We can only receive reading material through zines or Jpay emails, no books.

Anyway, thanks for reading this. I hope you find the Army of the 12 Monkeys as interesting as I do. While I have absolutely nothing to do with the group, I recognize that I'm in the custody of ruthless liars who will continue to lie to make me die in prison and my only way out of their unreasonable irrational custody is if they are defeated somehow. Perhaps the Army of the 12 Monkeys can do that.

I hope this finds you inspired and resisting.

Stay dangerous. Freedom,

Sean

p.s. Everyone whose names and numbers are mentioned gave their consent for this to be published.

## **Red Fist Alliance- United Panther Movement June 2013**

I am the Western Central region coordinator for the Red Fist Alliance of the United Panther Movement. I have a blog at <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/1491>. I also have literature available and I'm allowed prisoner to prisoner correspondence. I encourage all who are interested to contact me and I will respond. I want to better coordinate these efforts with a focus on building this movement as part and parcel of a united front against capitalism and imperialism.

Minister of Information, New African Black Panther Party, Prison Chapter  
Robert Thrower #47717  
Centennial Correctional Facility  
PO Box 600  
Unit F-1-6  
Canon City, CO 81215

## **THE ALMIGHTY PEN AND PAPER: GRIEVANCES AND LEGAL WORK**

### **Calling All TDCJ Indigent Inmates March 2013**

I know TDCJ strives to make indigent offenders feel worthless. You've got to walk down the bowling alley with your big envelope that screams "I don't have any money." You've got to sit back and watch everyone eat cookies and ice cream. Well stop for a second and be glad that you don't support this system and be grateful you possess the power to cripple TDCJ and you can do it legally.

Did you know that here in Texas if you are indigent you only have to pay back what you use the first 60 days of being indigent? So let's say that you have become indigent and for the first 60 days you sent out \$5.00 in postage, then for the next 10 months you used \$500.00 in postage. If someone decided to send you money you would only have to pay back what you used the first 60 days (\$5.00). TDCJ would be forced to pay the other \$500.00. This is all covered in the Administrative Directives under Indigent Supplies. It is also made known in the Offender Orientation Handbook p. 84, section 6, continued to p. 85.

Armed with that knowledge it is time to get busy and write some letters. Also on p. 84 section 6 it says you can send out 5 regular (one ounce) and 5 legal pieces of mail each week, weight not specified on legal. Writ envelopes are made available to offenders with open case numbers. It could be anything: an unpaid parking ticket, child support, whatever. You can write any US District Court and request pro se packets for a 42 U.S.C. 1983 action as well as an 1107 writ of habeas corpus. Note: there is a step 111 in the 1107 for those who didn't know, you can put your TDCJ frivolous case in Federal Court, they are different in the law library. Get the ones from the court! There is a list of every US District Courthouse in America in the Jailhouse Lawyers Manual. If you write the Concerned Christians for Inmates (PO Box 101094 San Antonio TX 78201) they will send you many useful addresses. So go ahead, wait out your 60 days and write until your fingers bleed. It's all on the state!! I read PAN and I love it but you fellows in Texas are right where they want you, complaining about Johnnies and TV Time. I mean you all work for free, then beg your families to put their hard-earned dollars in this system. I've found a way to take it back. Join me! An offender can spend \$10.00 a week easily. Times 100 inmates is \$1000.00 How about 10,000 inmates times \$10.00 a week: that's \$100,000.00

a week for TDCJ to pay. Black, white, Mexican, it doesn't matter. Together they can't break us because we're strong. Divide us, only leads to our destruction.

Michael Barboza #1545893  
IN SEG at a private (pre-release)  
-for tampering with their profit-

**San Quentin, CA**

**March 2013**

Revolutionary Greetings,

I write this missive from California's Death Row at San Quentin. I am also indigenous. I have filed a class action 602 in regards to condemned captives being denied access to sweat lodge ceremonies. The condemned administration refuses to meet us halfway. Instead of working to resolve the issue, they continue to make bogus claims that sweat lodge access for us will in a nutshell compromise safety and security. One excuse given was it is possible we may throw hot rocks at each other. They just refuse to work with us.

As of now, the appeal is being processed at third level review in Sacramento. We will be filing this in court. The CDCR has no leg to stand on. Our constitutional rights are being violated under the First Amendment, Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, as well as the Native American Religious Freedom Act. Though San Quentin is backed by the Director of Corrections, we are backed by federal law. I am seeking assistance from individuals who are able to support our cause. East Block is cut off from the main line and this makes it difficult for us to make any connection with those who may be able to help. If there are any Native American brothers and sisters out with the helpful information, contact me. I am not able to correspond with other prisoners so just bounce correspondence through a third party or email me at the following address:

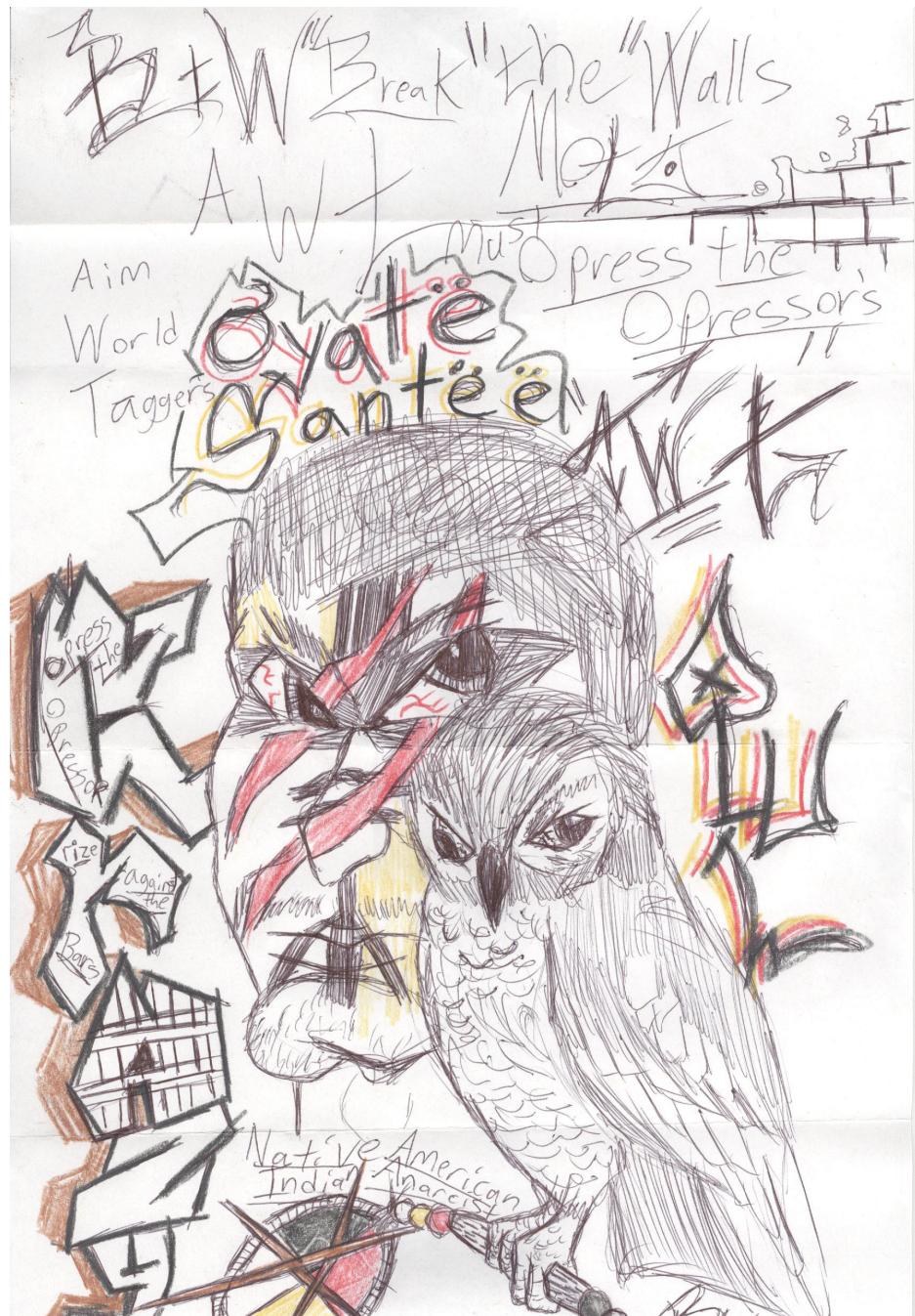
Samuel Lee Capers  
K-01264  
1-EY-37  
CSP San Quentin  
San Quentin, CA 94974  
or  
dhanus1@web.de

Our people were robbed, raped and killed by the blood-soaked hands of systematic oppression. This is 2013...when will it ever end? To all of our relations A-Ho!!

In struggle,

Brother Dog Shadow  
Check out my blog at [BetweentheBars.org/DogShadow](http://BetweentheBars.org/DogShadow)

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*Marcus Dennis #346345 AKA Crazy Owl  
WSP 1313 N 13th Ave Walla Walla WA 99362*

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## **Cameron, MO**

**April 2013**

I am writing this article to inform prison activists about a recent lawsuit filed against Mental Health Management Services Inc. and Warden Larry Denney in the US District Court, Western District of Missouri, Huntley v. Crook, et al., 5:13-CV-06019-BCW for the neglect of prisoner Cartez Huntley's serious mental health needs while assigned to long-term administrative segregation in housing unit one (the most restrictive housing unit at CRCC and Missouri's version of the SHU). This lawsuit alleges that upon Cartez Huntley's arrival at CRCC from NECC on May 3 2012, Mental Health Management personnel Dr. Ian Lynam who was the chief of mental health at CRCC at that time (who was later terminated) and CRCC prison officials clearly knew about Mr. Huntley's compulsion to self-mutilate by biting and eating his own flesh but failed to act and treat his serious mental health needs thereby causing injuries of at least 10 deep flesh wounds. This neglect went on for five months and has left Mr. Huntley's hands and arms scarred for life. He was assigned to a camera-equipped cell for the entire five months that the neglect was going on and was not scheduled for any counseling sessions nor seen by a psychiatrist and was not prescribed any badly needed psychotropic medications until the threat of a lawsuit became real to the Mental Health Dept. and custody staff at CRCC through the grievance procedure where exhausting of administrative remedies was requested under the PLRA of 1997 and completed prior to the filing of this federal civil action. This 42 USC 1983 civil rights complaint is very important because solitary confinement has become the dumping site for the mentally ill all across America and once they end up deep in the bowels of these complex tombs they are often neglected like Mr. Huntley was with no one to stand up as their advocate and more often than not they want to be tough guys that taunt and provoke these poor guys into crashing out for their amusement. This is sad and ain't cool at all! Remember these mentally ill prisoners are lost in a terrible nightmare that a normal man has trouble navigating. I am the prison litigator who helped Cartez obtain the mental health treatment and medications he very badly needed and put together his lawsuit for him (for which I'm sure to be retaliated against by CRCC prison officials) which alleges violations of his 8th and 14th amendment rights and ADA and RA violations as well as Missouri state constitutional rights violations.

I urge all brothers in solidarity who witness the abuse or neglect of the mentally ill to step in and lend that fellow prisoner a hand to stop the wrongs being committed against him or her. Coach them through the grievance system because, let's face it, the man ain't gonna do it. And look at how hard it is for you or I to complete a formal complaint start to finish. They need our help, not our mockery. Many of these mentally ill prisoners being abused and neglected are veterans who fought our wars to keep America free and old glory flying in the wind.

Only in solidarity can we fight and win against huge HMO corporations like Mental Health Management Services, Inc. and Corizon, Inc.

In solidarity we fight!

Troy L. Fenton 517163  
1115 E. Pence Rd. CRCC  
Cameron, MO 64429

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## **Live Oak, FL**

**March 2013**

Dear PAN,

I am currently serving a life sentence in Florida. Your newsletter was passed down to me by a friend in February. I am submitting certain information that may be of help to the Florida prison population and their families being victimized by Keefe Commissary Network.

I have posted a petition online at [www.ThePetitionSite.com/229/807/212](http://www.ThePetitionSite.com/229/807/212) (text below). I am in complete agreement with this effort and principle and would like to add that:

1. Items clearly stating "not for individual sale" on the packets are being sold individually and at increased prices by Keefe, e.g. Ivory soap, Maxwell House coffee, cocoa, etc.

2. Items clearly stating "not for retail trade" (Energizer batteries) are being sold and at increased prices.

3. Defective clothing, items that failed factory inspection (boxer shorts, gym shorts, shoes, etc.) misquoting sizes are being sold and at increased prices.

4. Because we are prisoners, we are not respected as customers. The customers are always wrong, unlike in the free world. Prisoners have no voice, resources, or recourse against the Keefe monopoly and its workers. We are being robbed and extorted. We are in prison but/while Keefe is being the criminal, Keefe has no competition.

Yours truly,

Soanes Keith 191981  
Suwannee CI  
5974 U\$ Highway 90  
Live Oak, FL 32060

### **Petition text:**

#### **Call to Action: Support Florida Prisoners Against Keefe Snack Sneak Attacks**

Dear Governor Scott:

The family and friends of Florida prisoners petition for a state investigation of the Keefe Commissary Network contract with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC). In this economy and in fairness the people of Florida deserve a new contract that makes canteen prices more affordable or reasonable.

Keefe is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, prison and jail commissary vendor in the United States. Revenue from Canteen Operation for fiscal year 2009-2010 were \$30,973,262.00. The prices prisoners are being charged are higher than prices for the same items sold in the free world. There are several vendors who bid for the FDOC contract who would offer a wider variety of available items at almost

**Page 15**

60% decrease of what Keefe presently charges. One has to “wonder” why were these other vendors not given the contract?

Keefe’s sneak attacks on snacks continue to prey on the family and friends of Florida prisoners who, for the most part, provide financial support to the prisoners population to spend in the canteen. With the economy in a recession it’s doubtful prisoners’ families and friends are going to be able to send more money.

Based out of St. Louis, MO., Keefe’s latest price increase has lead to more thefts, robberies, and violence in Florida’s prisons. Governor Scott, you can stop Keefe’s price gouging with one phone call. We urge you to be that champion of fairness and justice that you promised all Floridians during your campaign by making that call.

The success or failure for this important project depends on genuine community interest and online petition signature support. Please send emails to family and friends asking them to sign the petition and spread the word. Let’s make a difference.

## Tennessee Colony, TX

June 2013

Since my last update, I have submitted 12 I-127s/Step One prisoner grievance forms. Most of my grievances went to the higher, and last level, called an I-128/Step Two.

Two of my grievances concerned legal study materials not being delivered to our cells regularly during the last lockdown, in January. One response claimed materials were delivered to me, in my cell, on the date I was off the wing, in the gym, having my property searched. I put that in my I-128 but the Access to Courts Program Assistant Manager responded, “Step I has addressed your complaint and materials were delivered in accord with policy,” which was not true. In the other, she mentioned a delivery that was after the area of time listed in my grievance.

One concerned not getting any hot meals during the first four weeks of that same lockdown, even though system-wide policy requires several hot meals during weeks three and four. The lockdown also lasted one week longer than policy allows. One concerned meat-free trays, when meat was served on a breakfast type meal, after the lockdown ended, not getting the proper meat substitutes. That problem was quickly corrected, but the other may be repeated, whereas the I-128 response implied some officials lied about us not getting hot meals, while others admitted it.

Two concerned my appeals of disciplinary convictions. One concerned a law library officer retaliating against me for my previous grievances about improprieties connected with the law library by writing me a disciplinary case for a rule violation she has already informally resolved. One concerned an assistant warden lying in his response to a grievance challenging that disciplinary conviction, when he wrote, “It is the decision of the grading official [Major or Warden] as to whether or not your issue [rule violation] is deemed eligible for informal resolution.” The Disciplinary handbook says the officer who witnesses the rule violation can informally resolve it, and so can a sergeant the officer reports the violation to. If either does informally resolve it, no “grading official” is likely to learn of the rule violation.

One concerned getting only three bars of soap per week throughout April when we were only allowed to shower three times a week, due to water rationing. The I-127 response, received in late May, stated we were, by then, getting to shower every day. I am still waiting for the I-128, submitted on 6/6/13. One concerned not getting a response from the safety officer to the written question she was apparently afraid to answer. The I-127 response did not address the complaint, and I am still waiting for the response to the I-128, submitted 4/30/13.

One concerned not being able to find out the policies concerning lost items, such as the key to my lock, left in dirty clothes prisoners turn into the laundry. They dodged that one completely by claiming “no attempt at informal resolution” because the laundry manager to whom I sent my written request (getting no response) had quit.

The 12th/last grievance concerned something I wrote about in my last update. In PAN Vol. 6 #1 I quoted the following from an I-128 response: “According to CMHC policy E-37.1, an offender complaining of clinical signs or symptoms (such as chest pains or a bump growing on a leg) must be seen by a licensed healthcare worker within 72 hours of receipt of the sick call request.” I submitted a request asking medical to put in my record that I was having chest pains, at around 0730 on 1/28/13. I got a lay-in pass for the nurse’s sick call at 1800 on 2/3/13. If I had gone, it would have been six full days after I put in my complaint. If I had gone, a \$100 debt would have been put on my account. Instead, I complained to the officer supervising my field squad, while having chest pains on 2/7/13, heading out to work. I was put in a cage, in the infirmary, and my “vital signs” were not taken until over four hours later. I was then told my signs were normal, and I could have gone to work. My grievance was that my heart was not evaluated properly (vitals not taken immediately, no EKG used). I finally got the EKG, as the I-128 was processed on 4/4/13.

My lawsuit about correspondence on colored stationary being confiscated, and publication denials under false pretexts, is still pending in case #171523-C in the 89th District court. And, I have a lawsuit about being denied four copies of the Kwazulu newsletter, because they came in the same envelope as another copy. The Anderson County District Clerk appears to be a big crook, and the case is now in the 12th Court of Appeals, where the record she filed is missing some documents, and includes others that I did not file or receive.

In struggle,  
Umoya Kwazulu, a.k.a. Richard T. Ayers #468361,  
1391 FM 3328, Beto Unit,  
Tennessee Colony, TX 75880

Revolutionary Greetings!

We here in the North Kern State Prison trapped within the belly of the beast known as AdSeg (Administrative Segregation) have put together another group 602 due to the fascist oppressors' mail censorship of all New Afrikkkans who are a part of a collective think tank/study cell. It seems like the enemy will stop at nothing to try and discourage us from teaching our New Afrikkkan Nationalism revolutionary history/culture, keeping the spirits of fallen comrades alive. The struggle to end oppression and solitary confinement is an ongoing battle, and because of it we are being targeted and validated as prison gang members. Our Form 22's are not being answered nor a receipt being given with staff signature, so we cannot put the 602 forward with a log number that the appeal coordinator can grant and further process for us. I personally cannot order nationalist material from any book publishers, because the material gets labeled gang material. I don't think comrades George L. Jackson, Manchild Jonathan Jackson, W.L. Nolen, Jaka Khatari, William Christmas, John Cluchet and countless others would appreciate being called gang members by the fascist oppressors who seem to enjoy showing racist behavior all the while standing by their law. Our first amendment rights are being violated and there's a survey questionnaire being distributed that will shed light on this matter. Please, by all means, request this questionnaire from the law offices of: Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, c/o Attorney Carol Strickman, Re: First Amendment Campaign, 1540 Market St. Suite 490, San Francisco, CA 94102. Also, we are ready for our July 8th hunger strike demonstration and work stoppage in regards for the scores of demands that have also increased to 40 cause after two years all we've been given is lies. Dare to struggle, dare to win...

Comrade T, a servant of the people

*Image: "Jail Baby"*

Mr. Richard G. Hall, Jr. C-07278  
P.O. Box 689, YW-343 up  
Soledad, CA 93960-0689



Dear Prison Action News:

I have enjoyed reading PAN. The source for prison news...etc., as it has been a really good place that we, who are under the old lock and key and who are the ones forced to deal with it on a daily basis. It usually isn't the best of news, but at least we are able to hopefully shed some light on some issues that must be addressed. The issue that I would like to bring to public attention is the public water source ID #0010031 that Coffield Unit shares with the Michael unit, here in Texas Department of Criminal Justice Penitentiary in Tennessee Colony, Texas. The fact is that 'monitoring' is necessary of this public water source, and has not been checked in a consistent manner. It has to be checked for contaminants and it seems that there have been a number of "missed samples" according to what they have posted. Since this is water that we drink (and it is also the water in which we bathe) it is not acceptable to me that something this important is not being done in a proper manner.

Actually, it is quite shocking, especially since they are looking for things such as fecal contaminants!!! How could they allow this to happen? It is because "they" do not drink it or bathe in this same water as we, the inmate population, do. I guess that is why I see them bringing bottled drinking water down the hallway by the case!!! It is imperative that we find out what is going on with the water that we drink. It is just too important, at least to me. There should be reports available, but it seems that they (at the Water Development Board) are not interested in answering. Someone needs to assist us in gathering some information from those who are not really interested in corresponding with a state inmate, who has a right to know what the water contains or does not contain. I feel that we, as the ones who consume this water, have a right to know...Is there something that they are hiding from us? Is there something that they don't want us to know? I am very concerned that we are not being told the truth.

There are people who are walking around here on this unit who have something that appears to be a tumor. Is it related to the water that they don't really want us to know about? I will continue to ask questions. I will start with this question right here: will you also get involved and ask the questions that have to be asked? This is not an isolated incident. TDCJ has sent people here who are from the Connelly Unit. They were sent here because they were having problems with the water on their unit. To what extent, I do not know. But from what I understand they have had to close the unit down because of it. So it must be pretty bad. I want to know. I cannot for the life of me understand why it is that those who are in control don't have more concern for us. I believe it is because they don't have to drink the water around here and as long as they are ok, why should they worry about the prisoners? I will tell you why. It is because it is their duty to protect us from whatever it is that they already know to be wrong. But it remains to be seen, will they do the right thing? They haven't so far. I will be sending a request to the Law Library for open records. We'll see.

You may also contact: Warden John Rupert, Coffield Unit Head Warden, 2661 FM 2054, Tennessee Colony, TX 75884, 903-927-2211; Nolen Wilson, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Coffield Unit maintenance, 903-928-2211; Water Development Board of Texas; Po Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711-3231, 512-463-7847, Fax 512-474-2053, [www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us)

Please reference Public Water Source T.D.C.J. Coffield-Michael Units I.D. #0010031

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as an activist for fairness and truth!

Sincerely,

Charles C. Taylor Jr.  
TDCJ ID #01347697  
Coffield Unit 2661 FM 2054  
Tennessee Colony, TX 75884



**June 2013**

**Menard, IL**

Greetings Comrades,

I would like to update you sisters and brothers on my fight for justice and freedom. Without going off into details, last year I filed a pro se motion for fingerprint, integrated ballistic identification system, or forensic testing not available at trial regarding actual innocence pursuant to 725 ILCS 6/116-3 under Illinois law, and to my surprise the trial court appointed the public defender's office to represent me. I am grateful and looking forward to my release from prison really soon.

Also, I need to know if any of you comrades know of any good case law where a defendant was able to establish "bad faith" on the part of the police for loss and destruction of potential exculpatory evidence. You can contact me through a third party at: Vernon Tolbert #B56814, PO Box 1000, Menard, IL 62259.

Peace out,

Vernon

**Try Fighting Fire with Fire**

**June 2013**

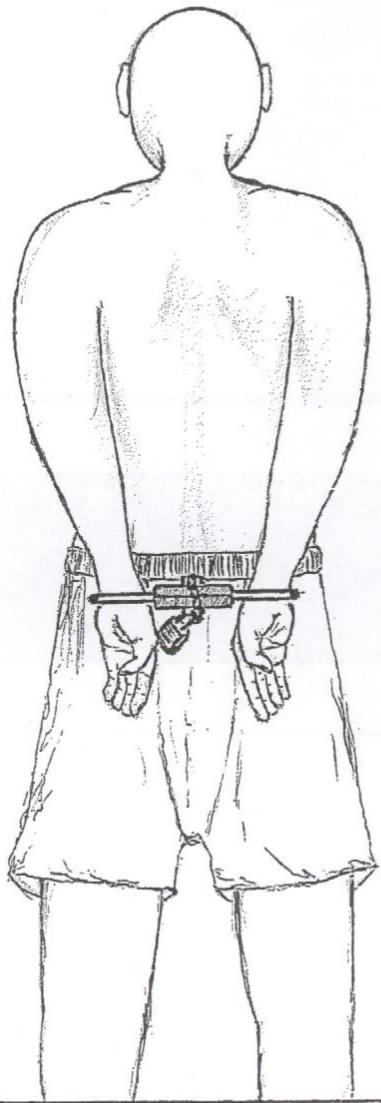
Our prison grievance systems suck, yes, but they are a necessary evil. We can file our prison litigation into the local courthouses, but few ever get past summary dismissal stage. Let's face it, folks, the citizens surrounding our prisons are loath to bring judgments against their fellow family, friends, neighbors, or monetary cash cows. That avenue should only be used in the most egregious cases: those exhibiting more than de minimis injuries. Through my 17+ years of trial and error, I have finally discovered a viable alternative. Each state has its own Legislature, with a Senate and a House of Representatives. In those bodies they have certain members appointed to committees. For example, here in Texas, we have a Senate Criminal Justice Committee (SCJC) and a House Corrections Committee (HCC). Each has seven members appointed, with a chair and vice-chair. Those members are listed on the internet. I've utilized certain members and have moved mountains by simply writing to them and making a factual case presentation. Yes, this does mean you'll have to get off your posterior and set about doing your research. It will mean missing dayroom time, missing a rerun on t.v., but you will obtain act-right utilizing this method. Not only will you write those committee members, but you will also have your family or friends on the outside then follow up your letter with a simple phone call, or two. Remember, those committee members requested to be appointed to that committee. As such, they have an obligation to perform their official duties listed under their jurisdiction. Elections have consequences in their eyes. They listen and act when free-world citizens call them on our behalf. Just remember to first file your agency grievances before making contact with these members. Trust me, your prisoncrats will treat you much differently after the first committee member contacts them with regards to our investigation. It will not make you any friends with the prison administration, it angers them beyond measure, but they are prohibited from retaliating against you while a state legislator is watching. Hit 'em where it hurts. Happy Hunting, Comrades.

R. Jay Reger #747783  
French M. Robertson Unit  
12071 FM 3522  
Abilene, TX 79601  
[www.free-rusty-reger.com](http://www.free-rusty-reger.com)

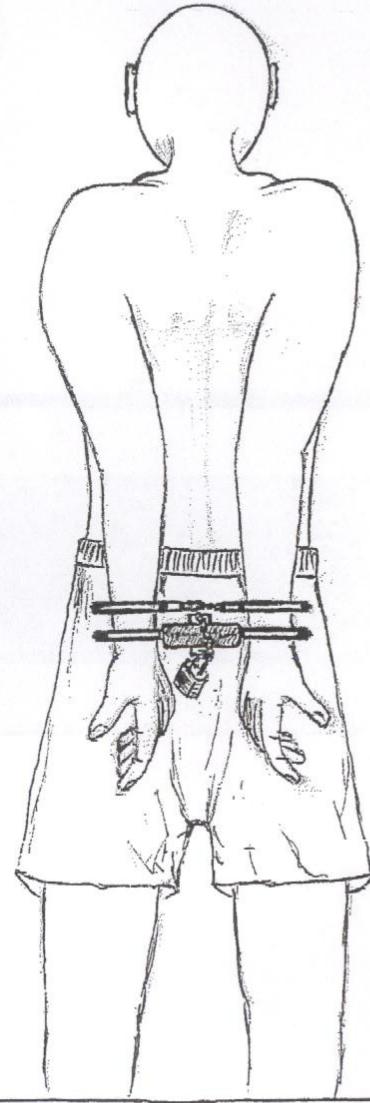
(single pair of hand-cuffs)



(single pair of hand-cuffs with security "black-box")



(two pairs of hand-cuffs with security "black-box")



Case 6:11-cv-00292-MHS -JDL Document 20-2 Filed 08/11/11 Page 2 of 7 PageID #: 110  
Exhibit G (diagram of progression in contention from excessive mechanical restraints)

*"Ruin"*

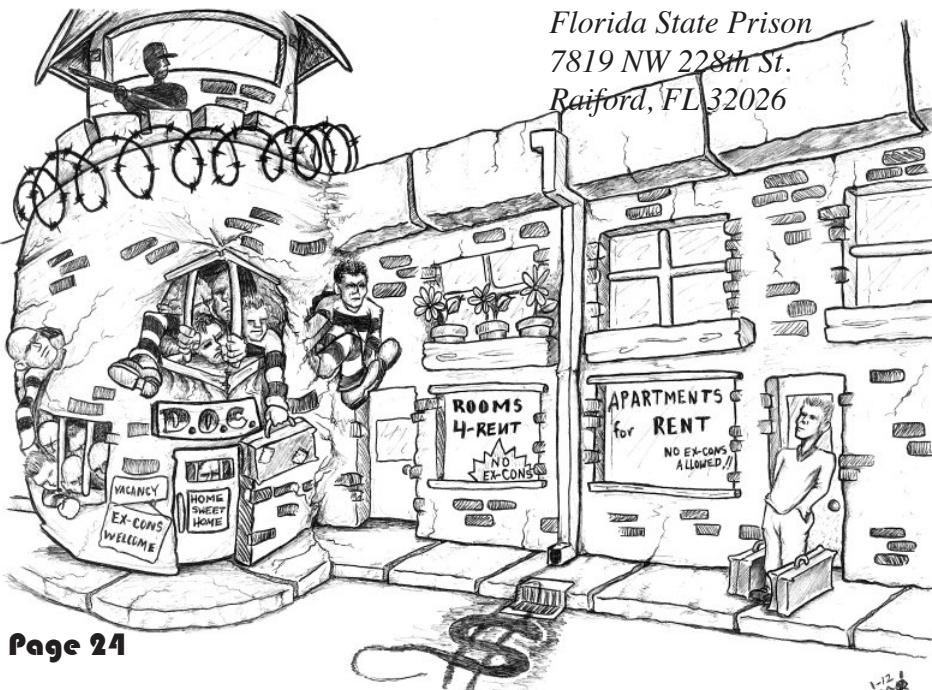
Greetings prisoners,

I am Matthew Wiggins, son of Bonnie Wiggins and Ben Wiggins. My father was killed when I was three years old. I first got locked up when I was eight years old. I have four brothers and three sisters. I am the youngest one of my family. We grew up poor, and my mom was not able to teach me right (well, the way she wanted to). I am a repeat runaway since the age of 9 years old. In 2007 they booked me in jail on counts that I will be able to prove, but can never get anyone's help. Like I said, I am poor and there's never really anyone that wants to help the poor. I am an African American Muslim, and since I've been locked up I've been fighting for our freedom of religious rights. They don't give us kosher food in all state facilities that I've been in, no Jumm'ah services in this prison. The state and all their employees stick together. I wrote everyone and almost all resource lists with all my complaints but like I said, no money no help. So far that's the sound of things. I filed suit, I wrote my complaint. I got my case into court and this has been since 2009 and I will be pro se all the way I guess. My case number is CV11-0967 MV/RHS. Since 2007 I've been trying to reach out all over the world. So take it from me, don't wait, don't put off your claims. Although I have just me by my side, I will do anything I can to help you. Please write and hear my story.

Sincerely,

Amir Hasim Balal Abdullah  
Matthew Wiggins #57300  
PO Box 1059  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

*Graphic: "Excons-welcome"*  
Jacob Barrett C07320  
Florida State Prison  
7819 NW 228th St.  
Raiford, FL 32026



## **DIRECT ACTION/NON-COMPLIANCE**

### **Tens of Thousands of California Prisoners Launch Mass Hunger Strike**

**By Victoria Law**

**July 10, 2013**

<http://www.thenation.com/article/175195/tens-thousands-california-prisoners-launch-mass-hunger-strike#>

**O**n Monday, July 8, prisoners at the Security Housing Unit (SHU) in California's Pelican Bay State Prison began a mass hunger strike to protest long-term solitary confinement. It is not the first time such an action has taken place. In 2011, prisoners staged two separate hunger strikes to protest their continued placement in long-term solitary confinement.

Hunger strikers issued five core demands:

1. Eliminate group punishments for individual rules violations.
2. Abolish the debriefing policy and modify active/inactive gang status criteria.
3. Comply with the recommendations of the US Commission on Safety and Abuse in Prisons (2006) regarding an end to long-term solitary confinement.
4. Provide adequate food.
5. Expand and provide constructive programs and privileges for indefinite SHU inmates.

During the first hunger strike, in July 2011, at least 1,035 of the SHU's 1,111 inmates refused food. The strike spread to thirteen other state prisons and involved at least 6,600 people incarcerated throughout California. The second strike, in September 2011, spread to twelve prisons within California as well as to prisons in Arizona, Mississippi and Oklahoma that housed California prisoners. By the third day, nearly 12,000 people were participating. The strike ended after the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) promised a comprehensive review of all SHU prisoners validated as gang members or associates.

Now, prisoners are striking again. They charge that in the intervening two years the CDCR has not addressed any of these demands, and they have called for a mass hunger strike combined with a non-violent work stoppage. "Once initiated, this protest will continue indefinitely—until all Five (5) Core Demands are fully met," they declared. By the second day of the strike, almost 30,000 California prisoners were taking part.

[...]

Over one thousand people are held in the SHU, and more than half have spent over a decade there. Prison administrators place people in the SHU either for a fixed term for violating a prison rule or for an indeterminate term because they have been accused of membership in a prison gang. Accusations often rely on confidential

informants and circumstantial evidence, such as tattoos or possessing certain books. Prison administrators also place prisoners in the SHU on accusations of gang association, again relying on circumstantial evidence such as being seen speaking with an alleged gang member on the housing unit, associating with prisoners of similar background or racial group or possessing literatures associated with political ideologies (such as the Black Panther Party).

Until recently, alleged gang members are released from the SHU only if they “debrief” or provide information incriminating other prisoners. Debriefing can be dangerous to both the prisoner who debriefs and his family on the outside. In addition, prisoners can be falsely identified as gang members by others who debrief in order to escape the SHU. One does not necessarily need to be a gang member or associate to be sent to the SHU: jailhouse lawyers and others who challenge inhumane prison conditions are disproportionately sent to the SHU.

[...]

In Fall 2012, the CDCR unveiled its stepdown program. Under the program, even those who have spent years in the SHU may still be required to spend two to three additional years in solitary confinement. The debriefing program remains in place. Groups of three or more can be labeled as Security Threat Groups, warranting SHU placement. Prisoners, family members and concerned advocates have criticized the program, stating that the program does not address the five core demands and instead expands the criteria for people eligible for SHU placement.

On February 14, 2013, prisoners at Pelican Bay’s SHU announced a renewed hunger strike, combined with a work strike, to begin July 8. This time, they promise to go “all the way” if the CDCR does not meet their five core demands. They demand that the CDCR sign a consent decree spelling out the specific terms of the policies they will enact. In addition, they have issued an additional forty demands, which include prohibiting official sanctions for hunger strike participation as well as improving conditions in the SHU and in general population. On June 20, 2013, prisoners reaffirmed their decision to hunger strike after a court-ordered mediation session with CDCR officials.

## **Actions Speak Louder Than Words: Keeping the Struggle Alive in San Quentin’s Death Row**

### **June 2013**

**A**fter three days, we’re officially hunger strikers (OP 608, Sec. 419, B.I.). Within only two days we’re getting set up to be declared “leaders” by a Sergeant or Lieutenant under the guise of negotiations (OP 608, Sec 419 B.K.). By day 5 the facility captain starts sweating us (OP 608, Sec 419 B.I.). At this point our peaceful action shows potential exposure of human rights violations due to imminent media attention, so prison officials hoping to cover things up deem this a disruption to facility operations while part of their clique forms an institutional classification committee (ICC) which then threatens a subsequent Rules Violation

Report (RVR) we’re going to receive based on their wild stretch interpretation of 15CCR3315(2) (2) (L) makes each of us a documented/validated participant in a Security Threat Group (STG) action (OP 608, Sec. 419 B.m.n.) If that fails to halt the advance of our struggle for basic human needs, CDCR’s playbook then calls for an intensified sensory deprivation program to be implemented (OP 608, Sec. 419 C/Sec 816). All this clearly demonstrates CDCR’s premeditated response to our peaceful actions and the continuation of violent torture methods with malice.

Course of action: everyone simply states they have nothing to say. Thus, nobody provides evidence of being a “leader” or an “organizer” through individual testimony. The open letter with its list of demands speaks for itself on behalf of us all, participating or not, while our non-violent participation in the struggle is an action which speaks louder than mere words. We’re simply allowing CDCR’s twisted response to unravel, thus exposing their premeditated malice which they have reworded in the OP 608.

Robert Frazier #F55038  
San Quentin Death Row SHU IAC14  
San Quentin, CA 94974

## **The Agony and the Irony of Guantánamo’s Mass Hunger Strike**

### **by Lisa Hajjar**

**June 20, 2013**

**T**he executive order pledging to close Guantánamo within a year, signed by freshly inaugurated President Barack Obama on his second day in office, is a dead letter. Over the past two months, however, the president has recommitted to his 2009 pledge, including appointing a special envoy to head the effort to break through the stalemate that is largely the product of domestic politics. Clearly, one trigger for this renewed attention to Guantánamo is the mass hunger strike among prisoners that started in February.

The Guantánamo prisoner population currently stands at 166. Eighty-six have been cleared for release. Almost four dozen others have been designated for indefinite detention because the government claims they are too dangerous to release but cannot be tried for lack of court-worthy evidence. [...] Of the forty-eight names on that list, which was prepared by a multi-agency task force in January 2010, two have since died. [...] Thirty-four prisoners are named as candidates for prosecution, including six whose cases are now in the pre-trial motions phase.

[...]

More than two-thirds of the prisoners at Guantánamo—104 reportedly—are hunger striking, and forty-four are being force fed. Four have been hospitalized for causes relating to their force feeding or hunger striking. The current mass hunger strike bears many resemblances and shares some common causes to the mass strike in 2006. Some prisoners have been on hunger strike for years.

[...]

As one Yemeni hunger-striking prisoner wrote in a note released by his lawyer David Remes:

"A human being should defend himself, but if he were to become totally unable to do so, he should take the difficult and simple decision because he has no other options. Doing so, he achieves victory over injustice and humiliation and feels his dignity as a human being."

Over a dozen of Remes' eighteen clients are hunger striking, and four are being force fed. He provided the following narrative of the events that led to the mass strike:

"When President Obama took office in 2009, he sent Admiral Patrick M. Walsh to GTMO [Guantánamo] to determine whether the prison met the standards of Common Article 3 [of the Geneva Conventions]. Predictably, Walsh reported that, yes, the camp complied with Common Article 3, but they could do even better! Thereafter, conditions in the camps markedly improved, the only creditable aspect of President Obama's GTMO policy. The Joint Detention Group (JDG), a component of the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo (JTF), ruled with a light touch and maintained the peace—an Era of Good Feelings—until the summer of 2012.

In June 2012, command passed to Colonel John V. Bogdan, one-time commander of an MP [military police] brigade that operated in East Baghdad. Unlike his Obama-era predecessors, Bogdan brought a tough-guy approach to detention operations and he has ruled the camps with an iron fist. Marked by displays of power for power's sake, his approach has led to mayhem in the camps.

In September, Bogdan, without provocation, had his men storm Camp 6 [where "compliant" detainees lived communally]. During the fall, conditions in the camps deteriorated: for example, temperatures in the cells were lowered to 62 [degrees Fahrenheit]. In January [2013], a tower guard in the recreation area fired into a group of detainees, wounding one,[i] and in early February, the mass hunger strike broke out.

Bogdan lit the fuse when he or one of his Officers in Charge (OIC) had the guards conduct a sweeping search of the men's cells in Camp 6, where about 130 of the 166 detainees were held. Guards arbitrarily confiscated personal items including family letters and photographs, legal papers, and extra blankets. (Civilians confiscated the papers.) Bogdan or his OICs also attempted to search the men's Qurans, using interpreters to do the dirty work.[ii]

That fateful decision ignited the hunger strike. What upset the men was not how the Qurans were to be searched but the fact that they were to be searched at all. JDG had stopped searching Qurans in 2006. According to our clients, JDG has admitted that it had no concrete reason to reinstitute Quran searches. Bogdan, however, decided to revert to the rules of 2006, which provided for Quran searches, a most provocative display of power.

[...]

Bogdan won't even discuss the men's grievances until they end their hunger strike. He'll be damned if he blinks first. Meanwhile, he is using brutal tactics to break the strike. Many men now view the strike as a means of protesting the very fact that they continue to be held. These men, including many of my clients, say they

are determined to leave Guantánamo one way or the other—alive or in a box."

Of the 130 detainees who were held in communal conditions in Camp 6, more than 100 were moved into solitary cells during a pre-dawn raid on 13 April. According to a newly-revised Standard Operating Procedure manual obtained from the US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and published by Al Jazeera, "in the event of a mass hunger strike, isolating hunger striking patients from each other is vital to prevent them from achieving solidarity." But, according to Remes who spoke by telephone to one of his clients on 14 June, "the hunger strike is still going strong."

*[i] Carol Rosenberg elaborates on the shooting incident: "The irony is the facility was built with remote-controlled gates to alleviate guards from escorting captives to the recreation yard. Less contact caused less friction, was the explanation. So each side could keep to itself. But then a detainee scaled a fence to get the attention of a guard in a tower, and a guard pointed his rifle at him. The captive climbed down immediately, but other captives saw the guard with the rifle and hurled rocks at him. A ricocheting rubber pellet struck a Taliban elder in the throat, according to both military and attorney accounts, but he was not hurt enough to merit hospitalization."*

*[ii] This refers to a 2006 Standard Operating Procedure rule that bars uniformed members of the military from touching Qurans. All Quran touching is supposed to be done by civilian linguists who accompany soldiers on searches.*

## **Anarchist Kostas Sakkas on Hunger Strike Since June 4 June 2013**

<http://blog.occupiedlondon.org/2013/06/15/anarchist-kostas-sakkas-on-hunger-strike-since-june-4/>

**O**ver the past few days, numerous acts of solidarity took place throughout Greece in solidarity with imprisoned anarchist Kostas Sakkas, who has been on hunger strike since the 4th of June 2013 fighting for his immediate release. On the 11th of June, a treating physician reported that clinically he has profound weakness, fatigue after minimal exertion (e.g. walking from his cell to the prisons infirmary), discomfort, mild dyspnea, dizziness, headache, abdominal pain, and he has lost 3.5kg of weight.

In the meantime, fellow prisoners have declared their unreserved solidarity with the hunger striker. Since the 4th of June, four comrades that are held in the dungeon of Koridallos women's prison wing, Kostas Gournas (Revolutionary Struggle member), Christoforos Kortesis, Vaggelis Stathopoulos, as well as Dimitris Koufonitinas (17 November member), have refused prison meals.

On the 5th of June, in the session of the 3rd CCF trial at Koridallos women's prison court, co-accused comrades left the courtroom supporting the decision of Kostas Sakkas to go on hunger strike.

Since the 6th of June, the comrades from Larissa prison second wing Rami Syrianos and Spyros Stratoulis have abstained from prison food to support Kostas Sakkas in his struggle, stating also their solidarity with CCF member Gerasimos Tsakalos, who received an extension of his pretrial detention.

On the 7th of June, anarcho-communists Tasos Theofilou (Domokos prison) and Polykarpos Georgiadis (Corfu prison) published a joint statement for their comrade Kostas Sakkas, saying 'we will meet again soon, at the battlefields of social/class war.'

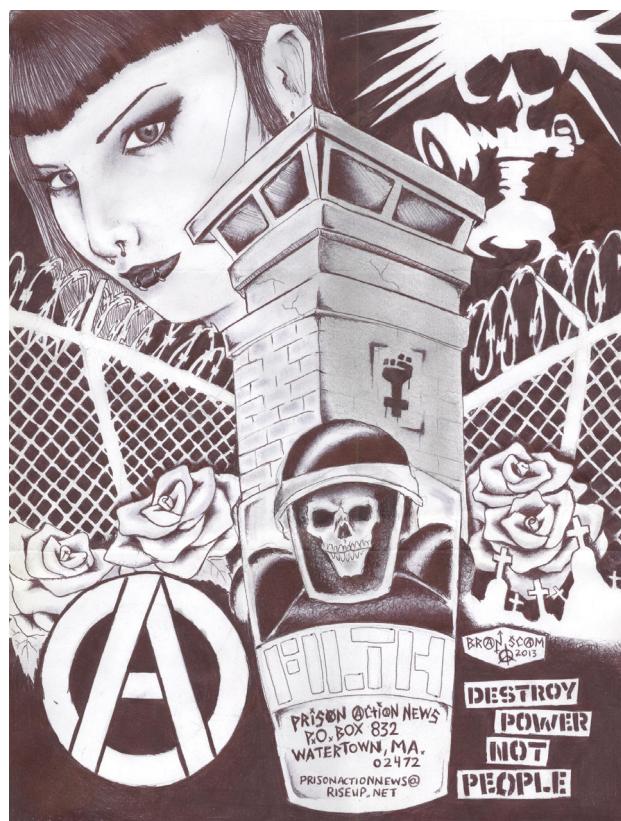
On the 11th of June, a total of 290 women and men incarcerated in Larissa, Patras, Corfu, the first wing of Kordallos, Alikarnassos, and Eleonas-Thebes released an open letter in defense of Kostas Sakkas and the destruction of every prison.

On the 13th of June, Kostas Sakkas was brought to the Athens appeals court (on Loukareos street), where a council of appellate judges examined his objection against his prolonged pretrial incarceration for another 6 months. (Their decision is yet to be announced.) In the same morning, three other prisoners were brought before a judicial council in the same court, namely anarchists Fivos Harisis, Argyris Ntaliotis and Dimitris Politis. During their stay at the appeals court, cops attacked Fivos Harisis throwing him to the ground, kicking him repeatedly, and handcuffing him even in the transfer van. When all of the prisoners, including the hunger striker, were taken back to Kordallos,

an intense clash broke out with cops and jailers at the prison, in response to the earlier police assault at one of them. The comrades turned the entrance unit into a battlefield for a while (fire extinguishers, drawers with documents and chairs were thrown in the air, and windows were smashed), proving in practice that no attack of the dogs of Power will be left unanswered.

Strength to all prisoners in struggle! Immediate release of hunger striker Kostas Sakkas!

*Editorial Note: Since the submission of this article, Kostas Sakkas has been released on bail.*



## Prisoner Food Strike

February 2013

Sometime ago, I was transferred from one prison to another prison for medical reasons. Upon my arrival at the receiving facility, I noticed that a bag of my property was missing, including four book manuscripts that I have written in prison – "How to Put a Smartmouth in his Place," "Card Tricks Anyone?" "An Educational Crossword Puzzle Book," and "The Genius Quizbook." The crossword puzzle book is uncopwritten, and "How to Put a Smartmouth in his Place" was copwritten in 1997 and was revised thereafter but the revised version was not recopwritten. These two manuscripts are irreplaceable. The other two manuscripts are in the Library of Congress, a copy of which can be retrieved at great expense. The above four manuscripts represent my life's work, the loss of which is catastrophic.

Once I found the manuscripts to be missing, I began a food strike, but I did not declare it. I believed that it was only fair to give the administration every opportunity to correct their own mistake through the grievance procedure in the hope that a formal food strike would be obviated. I filed an informal grievance then a formal one. Both grievances were unsuccessful. Not only was my property not recovered but the administration refused to accept responsibility for the loss thereof.

Around that time, the nursing staff discovered that I had lost 35 lb. within a brief period of time while under their care. Within two weeks I was transferred back to the sending facility where I immediately declared a formal food strike.

After ten days of the documented strike, I was returned to the receiving facility, and placed into their medical facility called the Long-term care unit on February 4, 2013, where I remain to date on a food strike. I have now lost 60 lb. and will require medical intervention soon, i.e. it will be necessary to force-feed me with a nasal gastric tube.

It is not uncommon for a food-striking prisoner to die from double pneumonia due to aspiration of the lungs as a result of physician error during the tube-feeding process. Medical ineptitude and institutional apathy run rampant in correctional settings.

The purpose of this letter is to apprise to you of what I am doing and why. Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

Michael R. Luna #27052  
L.T.C.U. #102  
PO Drawer 1328  
Los Lunas, NM 87031

*Image Opposite Page: Bran Scam Tucson Az*

## **Prisoner Solidarity from Palestine to Pelican Bay**

### **By Nora      July 8, 2013**

<http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/nora/prisoner-solidarity-palestine-pelican-bay/>

**P**alestine activism groups are launching days of action in support of the US hunger strikers in California, strengthening solidarity between Palestinian hunger strikers in Israeli prisons who are calling for an end to the similar methods of mass incarceration, abuse and torture inflicted upon them.

[...]

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners' Solidarity Network issued a call of solidarity with the US prisoners in Pelican Bay, and offered ways to take action.

Samidoun states:

"[W]ithout progress over almost two years, the prisoners in California are launching their strike again. Prisoners continue to be sentenced to lifetimes in solitary confinement because they are labelled "gang affiliated" over such matters as tattoos, cultural art, or reading material. Youth prisoners in Washington have also announced their intention to join the strike.

Over 2 million people are imprisoned in the US and over 60 percent of those people are people of color, subject to a distinctly racialized system that routinely criminalizes youth of color, in sharp contrast to the crime rate, which has fallen while imprisonment has risen. Mass incarceration is deeply racialized, as 1/3 of young Black men are in the criminal justice system. The US holds 25 percent of the world's prisoners with 5 percent of the world's population, and prisoner resistance and political action has been sharply repressed.

As we stand against apartheid, racism, and Zionism in Palestine, we stand against racism and oppression in the US and around the world. Solitary confinement is a mechanism of torture, from Palestine to Pelican Bay to Guantanamo, and we stand in solidarity with the courageous prisoners who challenge isolation and oppression. The US is Israel's key international supporter, ally, and economic/military supplier, and maintains regimes of mass imprisonment for social control both in occupied Palestine and in its own prisons."

The International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN) also issued a call of support and solidarity with hunger strikers from California to Palestine.

IJAN states:

"Members of IJAN have been following and supporting the organizing of California prisoners, who are prepared to go on indefinite hunger strike starting July 8 to demand an end to long-term solitary confinement and other abuses.

Both Israel and the US use policing, imprisonment (and especially solitary confinement), and surveillance as tools of political repression—often sharing technology and training. In the US, the prison industrial complex plays a central role in American racism—harassing and incarcerating Black and Brown youth, brutalizing Black and Brown bodies, and devastating communities of color.

Israel plays a significant role in the training of police forces in the United States and elsewhere in population control and Israel and the US share technologies and strategies of surveillance and repression across borders.

As people who support the liberation of all peoples, and oppose all forms of racism, it is imperative that we stand behind striking prisoners, who are willing to risk their lives organizing for their rights and dignity.... People who stand up to organize events on the Day of Action (or any other date) are asked to act in true solidarity by following these guidelines from the Coalition based on communication with the prisoners:

1. Support the prisoners by advocating for the Five Core Demands rather than agitating for other goals or our own demands
2. Remember that the prisoners chose a "nonviolent peaceful protest" and plan your solidarity actions with that spirit in mind
3. Honor the strikers, their loved ones, supporters, and the larger community of prisoner-rights and anti-prison organizations by refusing to claim leadership of the solidarity campaign."

Addameer, the Palestinian prisoners' advocacy organization based in the occupied West Bank, reported on 18 June that:

"Individual hunger strikes of Palestinian political prisoners have escalated dramatically since the beginning of 2013, with over 33 prisoners engaging in hunger strikes for various reasons."

This week, Addameer has confirmed that four new prisoners have started hunger strikes. Currently, there are 13 prisoners on hunger strike in the Occupation's prisons, the highest number of individual hunger strikers in over a year.

In a summary of their latest quarterly report, which came out last week, Addameer stated that:

"Key issues this quarter were the Israel Prison Services' (IPS) continued medical negligence, use of isolation, increase in raids, the military court's use of Article 186 of Military Order 1651, detention and torture of child prisoners under the age of 16 and increased detention of journalists, Jerusalemites and human rights defenders."

Addameer maintains that increased international pressure and forceful actions must be taken to oblige Israel to act within international law parameters until the imminent abolition of the military prison system.

# SOLIDARITY: WORKING ACROSS THE BARS

Frackville, PA

June 2013

**C**ampaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ) is an organization that is dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under 18 in the adult criminal justice system. CFYJ works in partnership with state-based campaigns in a number of states. CFYJ serves as a clearinghouse of information on youth prosecuted as adults and make their tools and resources available to those interested in learning and taking action on an issue that personally affects them.

CFYJ strongly believes that any movement must involve those who are most impacted by the laws and policies. Thus, they seek to empower those affected by encouraging them to use their voices and experiences to effect meaningful change.

CFYJ would like to invite you to participate in their Case Profile Project. The project gathers personal stories from youth prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system as well as their parents and families, in order to understand the experiences affected by the current system and support their recommendations for change. Case profiles are particularly integral to CFYJ's awareness work in which they highlight youth, parent, and family voices in their reports, policy briefs, publications newsletters, and the CFYJ website.

They are currently accepting stories focusing on sexual assault and rape in correctional systems to support campaigns for the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). CFYJ is also accepting stories in regards to youth who are/were housed in jails. If you or a family member has been impacted in either of these ways I encourage you to share your story to help others currently suffering from similar injustices. Please keep stories 2-3 paragraphs (roughly 300 words). Case profiles should be sent to: "Alliance for Youth Justice 1012 14th St. NW Suite 610, Washington DC 20005."

George Rahsaan Brooks-Bey  
#AP4884  
SCI Frackville  
1111 Altamont Blvd.  
Frackville, PA 17931

## A Community Bulletin: United We Stand!! Divided We Fall!!

June 2013

**D**ue to the litany of contradictions that we as an oppressed people are currently confronted with, it has become absolutely necessary for us to address these contradictions with qualitatively developed community-based solutions. As our New Afrikan Black Brotha Malcom X once stated: "There's too much singing and not enough swinging!!"

Hence, I've initiated the following programs to help empower us as a people, so that we can move forward as a united community!!

1. Throughout the U\$ Slave Kamps ("prisons") our oppressors have been steadfast in censoring innocuous first amendment constitutional activities, in particular, as it pertains to the criminalization of our political, social, economical, and cultural history, where our revolutionary legacy of resistance against the diabolical bloody clutches of U\$ imperialism, has been featured in our letters, books, pamphlets, newspapers, etc..

The Pelican Bay Human Rights Movement- First Amendment Campaign (P.B.H.R.M.- FAC) has been constructed to defend and protect our human right to free speech, expression, and association. Our mission statement is available at: Attn: L.S.P.C. C/o Attorney Carol Strickman, In Re: First Amendment Campaign, 1540 Market St. Suite #490, San Francisco, CA 94102, email: azadeh@prisoner-withchildren.org. (Outside community members are encouraged to let Carol and Azadeh know how you can contribute).

2. To address a number of significant community programs, the W.L. Nolen Mentorship Program (W.L.N.M.P.) has been constructed to help mentor the people with: economic empowerment, how to develop critical thinking skills, alternatives to joining gangs, etc. Our mission statement is posted at [www.sfbayview.com](http://www.sfbayview.com).

We're looking for outside community facilitators, supporters, and sponsors to help with the P.B.H. R.M.-FAC and the W.L.N.M.P. Please utilize your revolutionary science with responding to this, as Pelican Bay State Prison doesn't allow prisoner to prisoner correspondence.

For more information, contact me at:

Kijana Tashiri Askari  
s/n Marcus Harrison #H54077  
PO Box 7500/D3-122/SHU  
Crescent City, CA 95532

# COMMENTARY AND CALLS TO ACTION

## A Call to Action: Boycott/Protest Access Secure Pak and its Spring/Fall/Holiday Package Program

June 2013

This memo is designed to inspire/mobilize/encourage us to come together in solidarity in boycotting/protesting corporate-prison-profiteer “Access Secure Pak,” its parent company “Keefe Commissary Network,” and its so-called “Spring/Holiday Package Program.” This package program is a scam. Over the past 10 years or so, Access Secure Pak has marked up the prices of their goods as much as 100% while at the same time downsizing the size of their products. Now they have increased the spending limit from \$75 to \$125 so they can swindle us and our families out of even more money. The Package Program is a carefully orchestrated scheme by the VA Department of Corrections, Access Secure Pak, and Keefe Commissary Network, not to mention Global Tel Link to scam money out of the pockets of our loved-ones, many of whom are poor, living check-to-check, on government assistance and barely have enough money to pay their bills. These corporations are multi-billion dollar corporations, but those that are making them the billions are poor and exploited prisoners and our families. Access Secure Pak, through its Package Program, gives the Department of Corrections hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes in the form of “kick backs” to allow them to do their business inside their prisons so they can exploit us and our families out of what little money we have. The DOC then uses these kickbacks to finance lavish parties in the name of “Officer Appreciation Day,” finance lucrative pay bonuses for DOC staff, and build new prisons which they don’t even have the inmates to fill.

Whatever our affiliations are, we need to join hands in solidarity and respect, under a common cause, in boycotting Access Secure Pak and its bogus, money-hungry Spring/Holiday Package Program. We should immediately notify our families and friends out in society of this boycott, many of whom will be more than glad to join us in this struggle as they will no longer have to send what little money they have to this greedy, corporate prison profiteer in the name of a sham program. All “new” inmates who arrive at these prisons should be made aware of this protest. We see the weaker ones amongst us going to the prison staff to get a package order form because they have not been informed about this boycott, or because they cannot resist the big, colorful, glossy poster that Access Secure Pak and its inmate volunteers tape to the walls in every pod or dorm to entice us to spend our money with them. We need to firmly encourage them not to break the bonds of solidarity in this boycott. All prison activists, revolutionaries, anarchists, etc. should hold meetings every day to keep the spirit of this boycott alive so that on the day that the packages are passed out, there will be ZERO inmates going to pick up a package. We should all

notify our friends/comrades/homies at other prisons about this boycott so they will join us in this cause so that this will be a state-wide and perhaps a nation-wide boycott of Access Secure Pak. All of us who have been complaining and crying about how the prison system is exploiting us and mistreating us, well here is your chance to act and step up and show some back-bone, and more importantly, some unity.

We need to all write a letter to Access Secure Pak, 10880 Lin Page Place, St. Louis, MO 63132 and notify them that we are boycotting them and that this boycott will continue until they meet our demand of substantially lower prices.

In solidarity,  
All power to the people!

Brian Lee Rowe #1131545  
Buckingham Corr. Center  
PO Box 430  
Dillwyn, VA 23936

## Decarcerate by Dan Berger

November 2012

We are at the beginning of a new movement against the prison. It works to shrink the prison system by using radical critique, direct action, and practical goals for reducing the reach of imprisonment. I would like to call this a strategy of decarceration. It is the demand to close prisons and reduce policing- but also to open schools and build communities. It is a strategy that takes advantage of political conditions without sacrificing its political vision.

As the critique of mass incarceration grows, the current economic crisis can make mass decarceration more possible, because states want to cut spending.

In the past two years, we’ve seen an unprecedented number of prison strikes: a statewide labor strike in Georgia prisons, massive California hunger strikes that had 12,000 people refusing food and demanding basic human rights; strikes in Ohio, North Carolina, and Virginia prisons; and a recent hunger strike by two transgender women prisoners in California. That these strikes have come mostly from people in long-term solitary confinement and have taken the form of life-or-death hunger strikes is a sign of how dire conditions in American prisons have become.

It is also a sign of a new mood of opposition and possibly inside American prisons that is increasingly matched by outside social movements. The Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People’s Movement, Students Against Mass Incarceration, the Campaign to End the New Jim Crow, Decarcerate Pennsylvania (PA), and similar groups are new signs of organizing at the community level. The Occupy movement- and the police violence it experienced- inspired the Occupy for Prison-

ers day of action. And several undocumented youth around the country have voluntarily been arrested and risked deportation in order to investigate and organize against the conditions inside federal detention centers.

The movements against prisons unite people inside and out organizing against mass incarceration, detention of immigrants, and solitary confinement; people doing work around re-entry, HIV/AIDS, and environmental and education justice; prisoner efforts to self-educate and stay connected to the outside, and political and politicized prisoners. Critique and awareness mean little without organizing, agitating, and mobilizing. It's going to take all of us to win. Decarcerate USA!

*Dan Berger works with Decarcerate PA and teaches at the University of Washington at Bothell. This is an excerpt from a speech he gave at the 2012 "Mass Incarceration in America" conference.*

## Moving Mayhem!

May 2013

**O**n April 9, 2013, Kemper Neshoba Regional C.F. closed its doors to women. The facility originally housed all men but built and opened the 76 bed women's unit in September 2009. It was the first regional facility to accept B custody females, giving some an opportunity to leave the main compound (CMCF) in Pearl, Mississippi.

There were 55 of us at KNRCF when we were made to pack and prepare for transport. Forty eight of us were brought to Washington County Regional CF, which opened in October 2010. The other seven were taken back to CMCF. I was among the 48 women sent to WCRCF in Greenville, MS, and upon arrival I immediately began to take mental notes on the things I saw and heard. The Warden of course was there to greet us as we entered the building, though it was more than an hour later before she remembered to introduce herself and that was only after being asked her name. Her body language said it all: I'm the boss, I don't take any crap, and you will do as I say!

As some of the women began to ask her questions and she began to answer, I was shocked by the words coming out of her mouth. She cusses worse than most men, every other word was a cuss word. She informed us that she's been "doing time" for 25 years and that she doesn't take any crap. Well, if you ask me it's been 25 years too long. You could tell that not even her officers wanted to be around her by the looks on their faces.

Then of course there's all the new rules to learn and new people to get used to, but such is life inside the belly of the beast. Most of us were not happy with being shipped so far away from our homes. For me, I am now about six hours from my family, but as we all know, the beast doesn't promote family bonding. I see some ladies who are letting this move defeat them but I refuse to be

defeated. I will continue to press onward, reaching out to others, and working to further the movement. I cannot be kept down and I will NOT let my comrades down. The system will NOT win!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of my comrades for their love, encouragement, and support. Clenched fist salute and love to you all! All power to the people!

Amy Buckley #150005  
WCRCF C-Pod #141  
60 Stokes King Rd.  
Greenville, MS 38701

## Huntsville, TX

June 2013

TDCJ-CID is crumbling. Let us hasten its demise. Three main weapons: costs, embarrassment, injuries. Increased consumption/waste, repairs/replacements/maintenance could raise Department costs beyond FY budget limits. Transp. Div. Inefficiency creates major costs, go/no refuse chain/transfers. If indigent or \$100 copay paid use-up Medical/Dental/Psych with all possible requests. At all times use up all available indigent mail supplies. Diminish State Government, Congress, Attorney General's support for TDCJ-CID: compile/collate grievance log numbers, use as petition material by outside people with coordinated complaints. Generate outside dissatisfaction for TDCJ/CID with public/youth/media/voters. Use social media to post "legally factual" anti-TDCJ-CID propaganda. Expose cases of corruption, policy violations/deficiencies, etc. Accelerate/compound staffing shortages. Generate job dissatisfaction. Distribute local oil companies, etc. hiring fliers to C.O.'s and rank. Create/exploit situations for staff disciplinary and firing with no rehire. Make staff quit!

TDCJ-CID new Ad. Seg. Plan requires minimum 4x year lockdown/shakedown. Current sack meals are inadequate nutrition. No RDA, fruit, vegetables, dietary fiber (no distinction made between white and wheat bread) (cf. Food Service Procedures Manual (rev. Feb 2013), section 19.01 "Sack Meals"). This violates TX State and Federal Civil laws because now scheduled, non-temporary departure from regular meals, e.g. disparity between trays and sack meals. Make lockdowns cost more by confronting nutritional deficiencies.

TDCJ-CID new use of force plan retains clear policy failure to direct decontamination of offender's housing cell after use of OC chemical agent when placing offender back into it. Confront to require more work/MUOF and red-tag cells pending decontamination.

Use all means to shut down TDCJ-CID! Active/passive resistance, legal/political action, public/media opinion-building, organize/educate other pris-

oners about means/ends of resistance to the Prison Industrial Complex in TX. Always file grievances even if it appears futile. Cumulative documentation is needed for any outside complaint-initiative investigation to corroborate allegations and identify patterns and practices of violations. Also I-127's and I-128's cost money to process. Disciplinary hearings cost money per case.

Fuck TDCJ!

~Ruin  
Ad. Seg., Wynne Unit, TDCJ-CID

## Columbia, SC

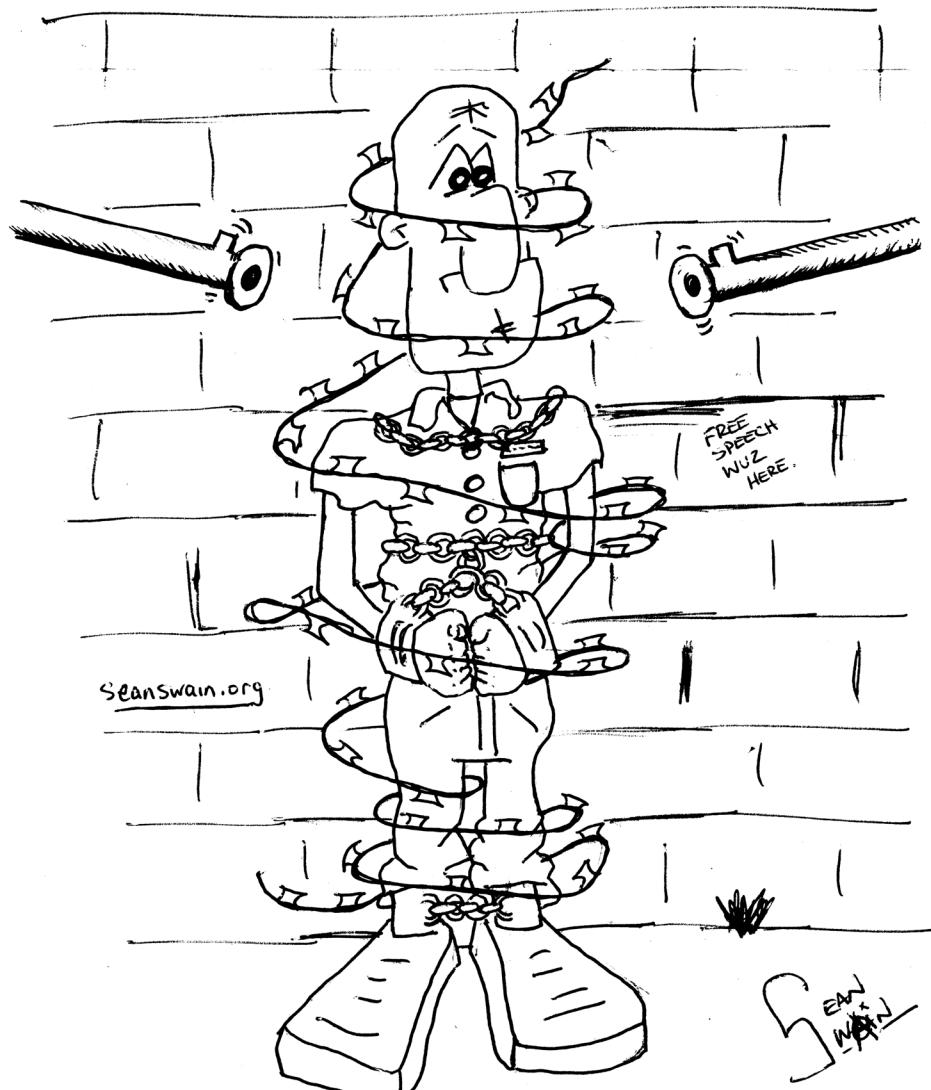
April 2013

The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) is rejecting all mail sent to prisoners from penpal programs, such as Prison Pen Pals; penpal businesses such as WriteaPrisoner.com; penpal magazines such as Cosmic Cupid; and other penpal-related materials including brochures from Elite Paralegal Service (EPS) that offer to sell penpal lists. Please contact me if you are interested in challenging the constitutionality of this censorship. NOTE: I cannot receive mail from prisoners (or penpal organizations).

-Cap'n @

Christopher Santiago #304243 F2-A-213  
Kirkland Correctional Institution (KCI)  
4344 Broad River Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CRITICIZE PRISON DIRECTOR GARY MOHR'S JPAM POLICY THAT STEALS 750,000 VISITORS' IDENTITIES TO GET MOHR'S FLORIDA GOLF BUDDIES RICH, AND YOU POST YOUR CRITICISM AT SEANSWAIN.ORG? YOU WIN AN ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIP...



TO SUPERMAX.

By Sean Swain

## Stopping Lawsuits or Speech February 2013

**O**n Monday the 11th of February, Governor Brown of California gave a little speech in which the thrust of it was that prisoners from California are costing the tax-payers too much money. However, what he failed (or any politician for this matter) to mention is that what's costing the taxpayers too much money is the outrageous wages Correctional Officers receive while working in SHU/PSU/ASU compared to general population. A prisoner in GP would cost \$58,324 per prisoner. In the SHU it's \$70,641\*. Although this staggering amount is specific to Pelican Bay SHU, the difference will only vary with other SHUs. What's not mentioned is why two officers are needed to escort one prisoner to dental, medical, etc. With budgets thin and prisons finding ways to save money, one is boggled by why the administration doesn't lay off unnecessary correctional officers. The hyperbole being spit out by Governor Brown is hogwash. The fact of the matter is that with a spark of prison activism and struggle for treatment that falls within constitutional means and calling for the end of SHUs, prison, legislative, tax-payers, and concerned citizens should jump at the start to reduce the cost of prisons and reduce the end of sanctioned torture by means of solitary confinement.

What this is is a gag order being issued (trying) by the Governor and his klan. Issues are now in the work on what prisoners can sue over. Like prison officials would not take out what the main issues prisoners sue about and leave issues that have no relevance. If this plan is pushed and enacted, then this just goes to show that as the 13th Amendment states, "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." This gives proof that for prisoners, there is no right to freedom of speech, let alone redress of grievance.

Bobby Villado F09476  
4a2a-108  
PO Box 1902  
Tehachapi CA 93581

\*Amnesty International USA- "The edge of endurance, prison conditions in CA SHU's"

## What Happened to Solidarity?

June 2013

**W**hen I first came to prison in the 1970's there was such a thing as a convict code, and unity amongst the prisoners. This developed mainly due to the repressive measures of the prisoncrats and slave masters. Prisoners respected each other and the code. However, over the years I have seen the divisions in the ranks, and the total erosion of the convict code and unity. Why? Well, the prisoncrats are the same, they just wear suits now, but the caliber of convict has softened up, and because of the "get down first" generation, where society has bred informants as being a "good thing," the whole structure has become discombobulated, whereas the government treats the rats as men, and the convicts as rats, reversing the whole structure.

This is especially so in federal prison, where 92% of the prisoners plea bargained, and the majority of them ratted someone else out to get less time. These rats are shot across the country so one does not know who's who anymore. In state prison, one pretty much could learn who is who, but in the feds, it's like a "shell-game", never knowing who's under this shell and who's under the other. Federal Judges get knee-deep in state prisoncrats' asses when they violate prisoner's rights, but try to get a Federal Judge to even discipline a federal prisoncrat for anything, and you just won't see it happen. All the constitutional violations that state prisoncrats are forbidden from doing anymore, happen daily in "Club Fed," where the buzzwords of those prisoners are "I'm just doing me," or "You have to do you, Baby" they shout to each other.

I say all this to say this is why you don't have much resistance here, or convicts who care about the next man, as it just seems like a thing of the past. You have to be extremely dedicated to continue in the struggle with the breed of prisoners nowadays.

In the Federal United States Penitentiaries (USP) there was a lot more unity; these Federal Correctional Institutes (FCI) are wild. Wild as in the fact that the prisoncrats spend every minute trying to find ways to create dissension between prisoners, take property, implement more inane, senseless rules, and just generally disrespect prisoners. I personally have been put in the hole four times over the past three months, for nothing more than filing a grievance or speaking out for what is right. I've been inside my whole life and I came from the school where if it isn't rough, it isn't right, so I'll keep on pushing this pen and whatever else I have to push to be a man. Our project now is to put the real in front of the ACA (American Correctional Accreditation) who is here for the [3-year] accreditation renewal. Of course they're on the same side as the prisoncrats so there's no false impression that we'll make much of a difference with them, but it sure does feel good trying to play them against each other, like they're so used to doing us.

## SOLIDARITY

Big John Perotti